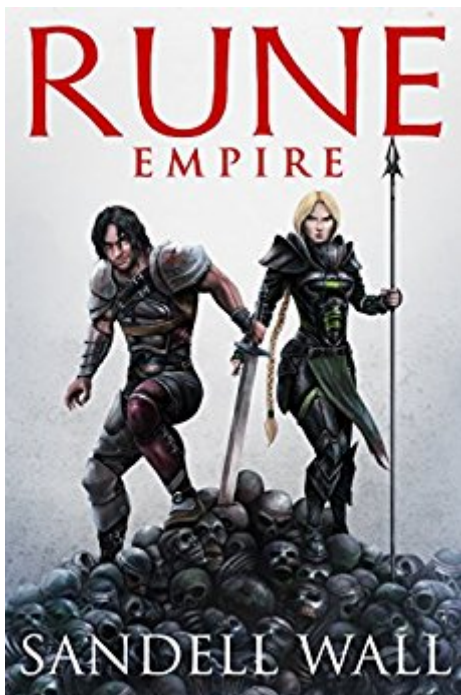


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# Rune Empire (Runebound Book 1)



## Synopsis

Four hundred years ago the Alkomian Empire clawed its way from the long dark, uniting the splintered factions of mankind under one banner. Harnessing the mysterious power of runes, the empire of man spread across the land, exploring and inhabiting the ancient fortresses that they plundered for runestones. For centuries humanity has stood unopposed, masters of their own destiny. Until now. In the east a darkness stirs. An evil beyond myth and memory sends its agents to plant the seeds of mankind's destruction. From the forgotten wastelands the vanguard of an invasion starts its slow but inexorable march. On the border of the empire a novice blacksmith, disillusioned with his life, dreams of challenge and adventure. In the imperial palace a young soldier embarks on her first mission as a member of the most elite fighting force in the empire. As ruin descends upon the empire, two young heroes will be forged from blood and chaos.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Not dull and the story line flows nicely. I enjoyed reading and am purchasing the next installment. I

hope this is NOT a never-ending story.

To be honest, the characters do ruin this story quite badly. Both their attitude and actions do not match their background. The orphan who worked most of his life as adopted blacksmith apprentice shows arrogance which normally is reserved for a spoiled prince. There is hardly any explanation why. The female lead who supposedly spend last years in strict and hard military school seems to be hot-headed and extremely undisciplined. Both traits hardly match both the upbringing and the training she supposedly had. The plot has so many holes it boggles the mind. Even if you assume a barbarian chief is a complete moron it's hard to believe that when losing a war on one front he just plots to have a war on the other. If the Emperor and his most loyal suspect certain nobles of plotting to rebel against him - why the hell does he give him a whole detachment of army to control? In a remote border location where any treachery is bound to be fatal? Why on a such apparently important mission - as an Emperor - you send only 2 people loyal to you? Why on such important mission do you send someone inexperienced, freshly out of the training? There is no reason! The author simply wanted to bring the main characters to a specified place and never bothered about things like basic logic when writing. If the said noble is in control of the whole army and the Emperor in his stupidity sends just 2 people (one of those being a complete newbie just out of the training) why wait and not arrange an accident early? If the said Emperor is so out of control of his country and army as the author tries to show in this book - why does anyone bother with any complex plots involving alien races. It seems pointless to go to all the trouble when you already are in control, and all you need is the head of the Emperor.

When will book 2, or 3, or however many be available. If you hadn't noticed, I hate cliff hangers. 's method of extracting the most money .

I tried getting into this book. I really, REALLY did. Before I dive into things, I'd like to commit to the positives aspects of this book. There are a lot of good things to say about 'Rune Empire'. Firstly, this novel has so many hidden gems in its world building, it is like no other fantasy world building I have ever encountered. The concept of rune stones, and their functionalities and how they influence the world and characters are very interesting. I especially like the scene where the main heroine and her mentor entered that town and encountered a very unusual rune stone with exotic capabilities. I'd have to say that surprised me to the point to continue reading. Though sadly, there are some weak points to this brilliant story. I found it difficult to care about the events in the story, mainly due to how

the characters interact to these situations. And that's quite the thing, nothing ever feels impactful enough. There are plenty of crucial plot points that occur, such as treachery, betrayal, and conspiracies all laced together... but I could never quite feel the gravity of these situations. I believe if there was enough backstory to carry these plot points along, such as why a noble house was plotting a coup, or why these strange creatures were plotting for a conquest of the Empire, then maybe it would have given these scenes the weight required to stir the pot. At the beginning, none of these plot points are given an explanation. They are explained as the story unfolds, hence the reason these points feel so transparent of urgency. The next pitfall is the story logic. Boy does this story has some brain-dead characters. Okay, so you are the Emperor of an Empire, and you are 10,0000% sure a lesser Noble House is plotting a military coup against you. Your words are literally law of the land, you can crush enemies with the wave of a hand... nope, instead, you send one-and-a half assassins (the half being our newbie heroine) to go join ranks WITH the man plotting to kill you. And this man plotting to kill you KNOWS 100%, that the assassins are within his company and could kill him at any time... Does this make ANY sense?? Why go through all this trouble when the Emperor could literally eradicate this entire house with one word. It just made no sense at all. The author does have an explanation as to why the Emperor doesn't do this, and it still didn't make sense. Other than that, 'Rune Empire' does have a rich and original world and I found the characters refreshing from the typical fantasy trope. We have a cocky, fast tongue blacksmith, a curious, hot-headed soldier, a nice-guy emperor... and woodland trolls. So yes, do I recommend 'Rune Empire' yes, yes I do. I may even read the next in the series. 3 1/2 stars.

Interesting book. Nice plot twists, enemy of my enemy sort of thing. Magic overlaid with some court intrigue, but overall we meet some interesting characters...author does a good job of some back-story, but leaves questions the reader will want answers to. The only reason this book did not receive a 5 star from me is the magic systems, while original and interesting, are not necessarily fleshed out, leaving some questions that could have been given in this book, not future volumes. Overall, I liked the book...and I will read the second book as soon as it is available.

This is a interesting story with some great action, however, the MC was so arrogant and rude that I was thinking of stopping as was getting sick of him. In addition, the way the male MC just seems totally gifted as a Blacksmith is a bit much, the folded metal on the swords etc but then just screws up the shovel?? I know he was supposed to be annoyed but still bit bizarre. Good the female MC started appearing more as this helped break things up when I felt like just stopping reading anymore

of his arrogance. As a fantasy series it is starting well, the usual 'dark evil' awakening to destroy the world but the added internal revolt but the nobles to spice things up. The female MC does seem to be a bit stupid with the whole 'let's her emotions get her carried away' She was supposed to be one of the elite freaking Rune Guard trained from a young age by her father and also 2 years training and she just like ignores her mentor as soon as she graduates? Bit weak that point I thought even with the explanation of her being an 'idealist' and then after that she continues to show this same issue despite the huge 'screwup' the first time? Both MC do seem to settle down and start to make something of themselves towards the end which was a relief for me :)

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